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<b>Weather Forecast</b>	
Today	High:48 Low:33
Saturday	High:44/ Low:15
Sunday	High:40 Low:22

FRIDAY

# Fort Riley Post



January 16, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 2

## Post gates monitored by civilians

By Sam Robinson  
Staff Writer

People frequenting Fort Riley may have noticed some changes at the controlled access points. The main change is that the security personnel are mainly civilians now instead of Soldiers.

Akal Security, a contract security company from New Mexico, began overseeing most of the day-to-day operations of guard duty at Fort Riley's access control points Dec. 23. The company was awarded the \$12.8 million contract in September and had 90 days to be operational.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery and 568th Engineer Company had been providing the security at the access control points. These Soldiers and Akal guards worked together for several days before Akal became the primary security provider.

"The OJT stated we would train together for four days, but Col. Simpson (garrison commander) requested that we do six days," said Angel Romero, Akal security captain. "He wanted this to be a smooth transition, and I think it was."

According to David Hubbard, physical security director, while the Army could have continued to allow the Soldiers to solely perform this function, contracting the security will allow the Soldiers to return to duty with their units. He said that Soldiers are still posted at the Trooper Drive gate and at other points as needed for a while.

According to the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, the contract action enables the units to train and prepare cohesively with all of their personnel and without having to dedicate resources to the security mission.

The 2003 Defense Authorization Act gives the Department of the Army the authority to contract installation security forces. The exemption expires after Dec. 2005, according to IMA.

Hubbard said that Akal's contract goes through 2004, with an optional extension and expires in 2005.

According to IMA, the contract security guards give commanders flexibility in how they structure their security force to accomplish the mission.

Among the duties that can be performed by the contract security guards are installation access control, vehicle inspections and identification checks.

Under the new program, 20 installations will have contract security guards. Ten of the 20 have contractors in place. Akal will provide security for Fort Riley and Fort Lewis, Wash. as part of this contract.

Akal has hired 80 people to fill 70 full and part time guard positions.

The majority of the guards have a military background, according to Hubbard.

"We have a lot of guards with prior military services," said Romero, "but this is a new mission for everyone. So, we are all on an even playing field when it comes to training."

Romero, who has 23 years with the Army and retired from the 937th Engineer Group, said people should not expect any changes in security procedures when entering the post.

"The gates are just one part of the security of Fort Riley," said Hubbard. "Akal was provided thorough training to prepare the guards for the job."

Applicants underwent background screening and mental and physical testing, before being

See Akal Page 2

Spec. Lucas Utterback, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, meets Colts' Quarterback Peyton Manning at the coin toss prior to the game.



Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander, (maneuver) 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, reviews the colors as a Fort Riley honor guard passes by. The color guard was made up of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

## Corral memorial held at Morris Hill Chapel

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

Family and friends gathered at Morris Hill Chapel on a chilly Jan. 8 morning to mourn the loss of Dennis Corral, 33.

Sgt. Corral, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, was killed Jan. 1, in Iraq while conducting convoy operations.

As the sun filtered through the chapel's stained-glass windows, illuminating the room in shades of

blue, red and gold, some of Corral's comrades-in-arms spoke about the man to the solemn crowd.

"A lot of people believe that it takes a lifetime to get to know a person. However, there are some

instances where all one needs is a first look and one conversation. Sgt. Corral was the type of person one could get to know instantly,

due to the way he presented himself," said Sgt. Daniel Nieves, 1st Eng. Bn. "His gruff exterior and

quiet, made a stern first impression, but it belied his free-flowing spirit and sense of humor."

Corral arrived at Fort Riley in October, and deployed to Iraq in support of operation Iraqi Freedom.

See Corral Page 3

## Purple Hearts presented during ceremonies

By Jason Shepherd  
19th PAD

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded..." according to AR 600-8-22.

Seven Fort Riley Soldiers received the Purple Heart during a ceremony held on Fort Riley Monday for wounds received while serving their country during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Additionally, Sgt. Uday Singh from 1st Battalion, 34th Armor received the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal posthumously. Singh died on Dec. 1 of injuries sustained when enemy

forces attacked his patrol in Habbaniyah, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, provisional commander for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, spoke to the audience about the sacrifice of all the Soldiers, especially Singh, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"These Soldiers and their actions have epitomized the division motto, 'No mission too

difficult, no sacrifice to great. Duty first,'" he said. "In addition to these Soldiers, we have come to recognize another Soldier, Sgt. Uday Singh, who made the ultimate sacrifice on Dec. 1, 2003. For these Soldiers present and Sgt. Singh, they serve in a division-The Big Red One, which was born

See Purple Heart Page 2



Members of the Singh family and seven Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team received Purple Hearts during a ceremony Monday.



Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, gives Sgt. Uday Singh's mother, Manjit, the Purple Heart. Singh was killed in Iraq Dec. 1.





## Purple Heart

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and is sustained by individual acts of heroism, duty and sacrifice contributed by hundreds and thousands of men and women who have served in it's ranks.

Singh's parents accepted the award on his behalf. His father, Preet Singh, a colonel in the Indian Army, flew in from India to receive the awards. Additionally, Col. Singh met with all the Soldiers who knew and served with his son at a luncheon that was hosted by 1st Bn., 34th Armor. Col. Singh offered his gratitude to all the Soldiers for their service to America and friendship they bestowed on his son.

His mother, Manjit, also received a copy of the award. "He was a courageous young boy and the Army was in his blood, and he died with honor," she said.

At the conclusion of the Purple Heart presentations, Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander (maneuver), 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, added his comments of gratitude and sacrifice to the emotional audience.

"We have a son of an Armor officer from India fighting in the American Army and fighting in Iraq against terrorism," added Kearney.

"It's a small world. We have a great passion between the militaries around the world, a brotherhood that exists where we understand each other. This family can well understand the sacrifices that their son, Uday,

made, just as the other spouses here understand the sacrifice."

According to Hall, these Soldiers were recognized because of their actions while on the battlefield. "These Soldiers and their family members we recognize today represent all that is good about our division, our Army and our Nation," he said. "They, along with thousands of others Soldiers who continue to serve around the world, will forever have the gratitude and admiration of not only this country, but other nations and their people whom we have liberated, and freed from oppression around the world."

The seven Purple Heart recipients were:

Spc. Joel Taylor from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment. He suffered a broken elbow and shrapnel wounds from an Improvised Explosive Device ambush while conducting convoy operations near Habbiniyah, Iraq on Sept. 29.

Spc. Delmer Crowsbreast, 1st Bn., 5th FA, sustained shrapnel wounds while returning from a patrol near Ar Ramadi when an IED exploded next to his vehicle on Oct. 9.

Spc. Wayne Burnsworth, 1st Bn., 5th FA, sustained shrapnel wounds while returning from a patrol near Ar Ramadi when an IED exploded next to his vehicle on Oct. 9.

Spc. Ronald E. Ryker from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment sustained shrapnel wounds during a Rocket Pro-

pelled Grenade and small arms attack in Habbiniyah, Iraq on Nov. 2.

Sgt. Kenneth Wyoma, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, sustained gunshot wound to right arm in a small arms and RPG ambush while conducting an ambush near Hadithah, Iraq on Sept. 22.

Sgt. Anthony Cora, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, sustained shrapnel wounds in an IED ambush while conducting convoy operations near Habbiniyah, Iraq on Oct. 15.

Spc. Robert Dedeaux, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, sustained shrapnel wounds in a small arms and IED ambush while conducting area security mission near Habbiniyah, Iraq on Sept. 25. Dedeaux also received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for his performance of duty serving as a gunner in Al Khalidiyah, Iraq.

Following the presentation of the Purple Hearts, Ed Burke and Steve Row from the 1st Infantry Division Foundation presented six \$4,000 educational scholarships to those children whose fathers were assigned to the division and were recently killed in action.

The presentation of the scholarships is a tradition that was established by Maj. Gen. William E. Depuy, commander of the 1st Infantry Division in 1966 during the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam War, Big Red One Soldiers in Vietnam and 1st Infantry Division veterans at home collected funds to establish scholarships

for children of Big Red One Soldiers killed in that of war. This tradition continues on today as a token of remembrance for all those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Additionally, two Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor received Purple Hearts at a ceremony on Tuesday in building 500.

On Oct. 16, 2003, Capt.

Shawn McWilliams sustained shrapnel wounds to the left leg and right side of his body from an IED explosion. At the time, he was leading a convoy to a local election. He was the company commander of Company A, 1st Bn., 13th Armor and as such, served as the mayor to a large area of Al Hadra in Baghdad, Iraq.

On Nov. 6, 2003, PFC Dar-

rel Riblett was on guard duty at the gate of the Dakota Forward Operating Base, Camp Hunter, when an RPG exploded near his position. A piece of shrapnel entered his right shoulder. Riblett is a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 13th Armor and was instrumental in keeping vehicles on patrol in Baghdad.



Post/Cooke

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, speaks at the Purple Heart ceremony for Capt. Shawn McWilliams, company commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor and Spc. Darrel Riblett, mechanic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, Tuesday in building 500. In attendance was McWilliams' wife, Kristine.

## Akal

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hired. Hubbard said they took part in four weeks of training at their headquarters on Fort Riley, building 219.

The guards, who come mostly from the Manhattan and Junction City areas, earn \$14 to \$17 per hour, including benefits Hubbard said.

Contract security personnel will not replace any of the DA civilians performing security functions according to IMA.

A result of this contracting action is that many reserve component Soldiers will be relieved of the requirement to perform this duty.

People entering Fort Riley will need to continue to provide vehicle registration and proof of insurance, along with photo identification for all adults in the vehicle.

Additionally, periodic vehicle checks are made. Fort Riley Soldiers, DA civilians and visitors

should allow additional time when coming on post.

"Having the proper decals on your vehicle will speed up the process," said Hubbard. "I encourage all DA civilians, con-

tractors and Soldiers to get the decals for their vehicles, if they don't already have them."

Hubbard emphasized that Akal guards received training in vehicle search methods, gate conduct,

customer relations and weapons handling.

The guards will be armed with pistols, nightsticks and pepper spray.

"The guards will be armed,"

said Hubbard.

"We want them to have the tools they need to do the job. Some may say that's too much, but really when it comes to security what's too much?" he asked.

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January 2004 TF

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4 paper: combo

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Publisher-Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy  
Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski  
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore  
Printer-John G. Montgomery  
Fort Riley Editorial Staff:  
Editor-Vacant  
Staff Writers-Spc. William Biles, Cassidy Hill, Sam Robinson  
Advertising Representatives:  
Shelby Dryden, Stephanie Romberger, Sharon Davis

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Circulation 8,800 copies each week  
By mail \$20 per year  
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City  
and Manhattan chambers of commerce



Post/Biles

A memorial sits in the front of Morris Hill Chapel in honor of Sgt. Dennis Corral, Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion. Corral was killed Jan. 1 while performing convoy operations in Iraq.

## Corral

continued from page 1

dom on Dec. 1.

Although Corral was only with the unit for a short time he managed to make a lasting impression to those around him. Capt. Terrence Alvarez, 1st Eng. Bn, quoted a letter from Capt. Tyler Faulk, commander, Company C, 1st Eng. Bn., on the impression he made on him and the Soldiers of the company.

"Sgt Corral was only with Cold Steel for a short time. His arrival was greatly anticipated though, as we had been without a supply sergeant, and were greatly in need of his skills. Immediately upon his arrival at Camp Junction City, he set to work improving the company supply system - organizing, filing, and issuing out equipment," said Faulk in his letter.

"He was not one to complain, and readily accepted every task that was heaped upon him. With tenacity and determination he worked his way into the crowds and circles surrounding his job.

He also started to gel with the members of his platoon. His natural friendliness and easy disposition made it very easy for every one to come to know this outgoing man from Los Angeles, Calif.," the letter stated.

In Faulk's letter, it also mentioned how he tried in vain to put into words the essence of Corral and the regret he had for not knowing him long enough.

"I have been doing a lot of thinking since New Year's Day, trying to figure out how to capture, in a few short words and phrases, the essence of the man. I've come to the conclusion that it can't be done," Faulk's letter said.

"There is more to every one than we can possibly know from our associations with them. Sgt. Corral was certainly no exception.

In addition to the man we came to know, there was a hidden depth to who he was. We did not get enough of an opportunity to learn all we wanted to know about this

aspiring young man."

Even though Faulk only knew Corral for a few short weeks, he stated in his letter how he would be able to keep his memory of him alive.

"There was so much we did not know about him, but fortunately there was still a great deal we were able to learn. Instead of trying to keep him in our thoughts in an entirety which we cannot obtain, I think we must pick a few single things that we lock into our memories - a few simple anecdotes or qualities we choose to remember over everything else," Faulk's letter stated.

"These tidbits tell us so much of the quality of the man Sgt. Corral was, and they will keep him alive in our thoughts. Every time I bring to my mind one of those thoughts, I can see his face and hear his laughter. All of the Soldiers in Charlie Company are infinitely better off because Dennis entered our lives."

## Talk Around Town

**"Is PT in the winter cold easier or harder than in the summer heat?"**



*"The winter has its advantages because I feel in the cold your muscles last longer. But when the wind blows, as it does here, it definitely makes all PT harder."*



*"It's easier in the cold. I personally don't get as exhausted as fast."*



*"It's easier because Fort Riley gets very hot during the summer time doing PT."*

Sgt. Patrick D. Crader  
1967th Med. team

Spc. Jason England  
1140th Eng. Bn.

Staff Sgt. Michael A Garcia  
USA MEDDAC

## Know signs of suicide victims

Typical warning signs which are often exhibited by people who are feeling suicidal include:

- Withdrawing from friends and family.
- Depression, broadly speaking; not necessarily a diagnosable mental illness such as clinical depression, but indicated by signs such as:
- Loss of interest in usual activities.
- Showing signs of sadness, hopelessness, irritability.
- Changes in appetite, weight, behavior, level of activity or sleep patterns.
- Recurring suicidal thoughts or fantasies.
- Sudden change from extreme depression to being 'at peace' (may indicate that they have decided to attempt suicide).
- Talking, Writing or Hinting about suicide.
- Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness.
- Purposefully putting personal affairs in order.
- Giving away possessions.
- Sudden intense interest in personal wills or life insurance.
- 'Clearing the air' over personal incidents from the past.

If you or someone you know has any of these signs, call someone, get help. On Fort Riley, call 239-HELP.

MANHATTAN PERIODONTICS  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
JANUARY 2004 TF

KANSAS PRESS  
2 x 2'  
Black Only  
New CPT Program/1-14 & 1-16

KINDER MUSIK  
1 x 1'  
Black Only  
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REGULATOR TIME SHOP  
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DECEMBER&JAN.03

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1 x 4'  
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KONZA PRAIRIE CNTY HEALTH CENT  
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Men's health threats

US ARMY REENLISTMENT-ARMED FOR  
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#417865/Manuscript: CEF./1-16-04



## Briefs

### PAC Meeting

Child and Youth Services, Parent Advisory Council meets the first Friday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m., in the training room of building 6620. All parents are encouraged to attend. The agenda includes program updates, activities, and parent information on pertinent subjects. Parents can earn a 10 percent discount on child care services for a month after attending three meetings. Call Outreach Services at 239-9850 for additional information.

### Flu Shots Available

Flu shots for Department of the Army civilians are available at the Occupational Health Clinic in Irwin Army Community Hospital. Flu shots will be given Mondays - Fridays from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m., on a walk-in basis. The Occupational Health Clinic is located in the basement level inside of the Pre-

ventive Medicine Service. You can access the clinic through the Preventive Medicine front door or from the hallway across from the dining facility offices.

### PWOC Fellowship

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to join them at Morris Hill Chapel for fun fellowship and spiritual healing. The theme for the year the 2004 year is 'Come to the Living Water.' There will be multiple Bible studies to choose from, as well as, outreach opportunities, programs and activities. The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Childcare is available. For more information, call Juli Kelly at 784-8333.

### Refuse Collection

Martin Luther King holiday refuse collection schedule change

will be in effect Monday-Jan. 23, in observance of Martin Luther King day. The schedule is:

Monday, No pickup, Martin Luther King holiday.

Tuesday, Colyer Manor, Main Post, and Marshall Field.

Wednesday, Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, and Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue). Dumpsters at buildings 27, 28, 45, 470, 471, 540, 541, 620, 510, and 5309.

Thursday, Warner Heights and Burnside Heights. (No change from regular schedule.)

Jan. 23, Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, and Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue). (No change from regular schedule.)

### Mailroom Classes

An "Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations" classes will be offered on Wednesday, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in building 319.

Preenrollment is required. Call 239-5411 for enrollment.

DOD 4525-6-M, Vol II, DOD Postal Manual, requires each commander who has a unit mailroom to appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer. Each mailroom must also have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates.

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (30 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers (if not involved in mail handling duties) only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. If unit postal officer is involved in mail handling duties, then they must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

Prior to rotations, commanders should ensure they have sufficient personnel appointed to perform necessary mail handling duties

### Deadline Nears

The deadline for applications for the 2004 Scholarships for Military

Children Program is close of business Feb. 18. The Fisher House Foundation administers the scholarship program. The scholarships are worth \$1,500. Applications and criteria for the program can be downloaded from

<http://www.commissaries.com> or <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

### Thrift Store

Personal checks will no longer be accepted.

Carr Hall offers the nearest ATM. The Thrift Shop is located in building 267, Stuart Avenue and is open from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday with extended hours on Thursday. They are, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Items for consignment are

accepted on Tuesdays; donations are accepted everyday.

For more information on needed items or to schedule a pickup for large items, please call 784-3874.

Volunteers are always appreciated. Benefits include childcare reimbursement, first pick and discounts on donated items and a fun working atmosphere!

## Black memorial conducted Dec. 18 at Morris Hill Chapel

By Steven Cooke

19th PAD

Family, friends and members of the Fort Riley community gathered yet again to remember another fallen Soldier at Morris Hill Chapel Dec. 18.

Sgt. William Black, 26, tank gunner, Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, is the 20th Fort Riley Soldier to die in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Black was killed in action Dec. 12, while conducting a convoy escort mission.

"Today we gather to pay tribute together to pay tribute to the life of a Soldier," said Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, provisional commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team. "One that has given his all in the war on terror. One who has contributed to the bill that is paid repeatedly so we can maintain the freedoms we enjoy. His sacrifice will be remembered as a testimony to this nation's resolve that we as a nation, that we as a people will not succumb to terror or stand by and watch another nation and its people be held in bondage by a dictator and his regime."

Sgt. Justin Carter, tank gunner, Co. B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, read a letter by Black's platoon sergeant in Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Walker, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor.

"Even though he was never a gunner before, he viewed it as a challenge," read Walker's letter. "Not only did he not complain about his situation he just jumped right in and did the best he could. His resolve to be the best started to show up early in his deployment. He was a positive role model from the beginning. He had a 'No mission is too great' attitude. He gave his all in everything he did."

Capt. Jeffery Jurand, rear detachment commander, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, spoke about Black's inspiring commitment and dedication to his job as a Soldier.

"Black touched each of our lives whether we realize it or not," said Jurand. In his own words Sgt. Black described himself as a scrapper. Those words invoke images in our minds of a lively, committed and dedicated individual who strived to win at every-

thing. He was a competitor. A Soldier who understood that in our profession those who come in second sometimes lose. He was a type of Soldier who attacked any task at hand. Whether tank gunnery, playing spades or leading Soldiers. As a leader I can think of few qualities in Soldier that are more important. As a leader those qualities stay at the top the list."

Sgt. Jarrod William Black was born on Jan. 21, 1977 in Peru, Indiana. He enlisted in the United States Army as an Armor Crewman on Sept. 29, 1999 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky with Company D, 2nd Battalion 81st Armor Regiment in December 1999. He was first assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor at Schweinfurt, Germany where he served in a variety of positions from February 2000 until September 2001.

In September 2001 Black was assigned to Troop E, 1st Squadron, 16th Cavalry as a tank commander and instructor. Black was next assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, Fort Riley, Kansas in December 2002. Black deployed

with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in September 2003.

Black's awards include the Army Achievement medal (2nd award), the National Defense Ser-

vice Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Black is survived by his wife, two sons, his parents and his brother.

#### CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MARTPHARMAC

2 x 2"  
Black Only  
PU DEC 03

#### VALASSIS- ARM FORCES COMM.

3 x 12"  
Black Only  
#422898/Cell. One/woman w/2kid

#### SUNFLOWER BANK- JC

3 x 10"  
Black Only  
3x10, ABC

#### COTTONWOOD THEATERS

1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1x3, COTTONWOOD and POST





# Positive attitude keeps Soldier working to stay in Army

By Sam Robinson  
Staff writer

On Nov. 2, 2003, Staff Sgt. David Chatham's life changed in split second. That was the day he, along with two other Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, were traveling west of Baghdad in a Bradley fighting vehicle when it was hit with hostile fire.

"We had just dropped off some Soldiers," said Chatham. "I was putting on my goggles when I saw a flash. The next thing I knew, I was in the bottom of the turret."

Chatham and the gunner, Spc. Ronald Ryker, had been seriously injured. The driver, Spc. Jason Nacci, whose injuries were not as extensive, headed the vehicle to safety.

"My helmet had been knock-off so I had to use my hand mic to talk to the driver," said Chatham. "I needed to know if my guys were hurt and what had happened."

"My left side was singed and my ear was ringing. I was bleeding badly," said Chatham. "I realized my boot string was the only thing holding my left foot on."

"I knew I needed a tourniquet and I knew I needed to keep my wits," added Chatham. "I gritted my teeth, put the tourniquet on, and tried to stay focused on getting to safety."

According to Chatham, the Bradley had been hit by a rocket propelled grenade and the crew was taking small arms fire, as well.

"My gunner returned fire, while the driver took us to the aid station, full throttle," said Chatham. "I have heroes for a crew."

He aced the rigorous combat training he has received and his time in Desert Storm, for his ability to stay focused and level headed.

"You can't just decide not to do your job, other Soldiers are counting on you," said Chatham. "In the Army, we train over and over, so actions become second

nature. We plan for worse case situations. Then when you need it the most, it all kicks in."

Chatham and the crew made it to an aid station and were then taken to a CASH unit. There his leg was immobilized when the medical staff placed an external fixator on his foot and lower leg. He was then transported to Baghdad for further treatment.

"I started thinking of what could kill me now," said Chatham. "I knew I had lost a lot of blood. I told the medic 'don't let me bleed, don't let me bleed'. Come to find out I had not lost as much blood as I thought because of the tourniquet."

Within a matter of hours after being wounded, Chatham was in surgery. Doctors in Baghdad stabilized his condition and tried to reconstruct his foot. This prepared him to be transported to Germany for additional treatment.

Before leaving Iraq, Chatham was able to speak to his wife, Jenny, who was at Fort Riley.

"The phone rang and it was a captain telling me David had been injured," said Jenny Chatham. "The captain said David was okay and that he was coming home. The next thing I hear is David, he's trying to say 'I love you' but he was so medicated I could barely understand him."

While hospitalized in Germany, doctors amputated Chatham's left foot and a portion of his lower leg. After 10 days and two surgeries, Chatham was headed to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

At Walter Reed, Chatham had yet another surgery. This one was to revise the area on his leg where his future prosthesis would fit. He also received care and support from fellow Soldiers, elected officials and celebrities.

"I'm telling you, you don't have any down time while you're in that place," said Chatham. "You are either in therapy, with a doctor or your family, or someone is there to visit you and say thanks."

During this time, Jenny's mother had come to Fort Riley to stay with the

Chatham's children, Jared, 3 and Ian, 7 months, so Jenny could be with David at Walter Reed. This was the first time Jenny had seen her husband since he had left Fort Riley in September.

Part of his routine at Walter Reed included visits from other Soldiers who had lost limbs or had been other wise injured. Chris Reed, Veterans Affairs representative, was one of those Soldiers.

"Chris had lost an arm and a leg, but you would never know it," said Chatham. "He was so natural with his movements."

He gave me hope, he was a good role model for dealing with what's to come."

After a month in Washington, Chatham returned home to Fort Riley.

"I had told Jared that Daddy had been

*"My gunner returned fire, while the driver took us to the aid station, full throttle. I have heroes for a crew."*

Staff Sgt. David Chatham

hurt and that he had lost his foot," said Jenny. "But I wasn't sure how he was going to react to seeing David."

"He was happy to see me, he is doing fine with everything," said Chatham.

"It's frustrating though when we try to play, the crutches get in the way."

It is the little things in life, things that you have taken for granted for years, that begin to be a challenge, according to Chatham.

"I can get up and go to the kitchen for a cup of coffee, but how am I going to carry it back?" said Chatham. "I'm looking forward to getting my new foot, so I don't need the crutches. Right now I feel like I've lost both my hands too."

Jenny admits that the family will need

to make a few changes, such as moving into a one floor home, to make daily living easier. However she says she is very thankful to have David home.

Although Chatham has returned to Fort Riley, he still has a long road to a complete recovery. He is currently receiving physical therapy and meeting with physicians at Irwin Army Community Hospital, on a regular basis.

"The team here makes sure I am progressing," said Chatham. "They help me with everything from taking care of the wound area to learning how to use my new foot. I am very impressed with staff here, and at all the places I've been. They take good care of us."

"I see this more as an inconvenience rather than a disability," said Chatham. "I will get my prosthesis and life can get back to normal. I want to get back to work."

"One morning I woke up and went to get out of bed, I forgot the foot was gone," said Chatham. "Thankfully I caught myself. It is the little things like that which catch you off guard, but for the most part everything is going well."

According to Chatham he would like to return to duty with his unit, but he doesn't want to be a liability to the other Soldiers.

"Some people have come up to me and said 'Oh my god, I'm so sorry to hear about David,'" said Jenny. "I want to say sorry about what...that he is home and safe? I don't feel sorry, my husband is here and other wives still have to wait."

Jenny concluded that this was more of an inconvenience rather than a disability.

"I know he can deal with it," she said. "It will take more than this to keep him down."

"The Army is my career and my way of life," said Chatham. "I don't know what else I would do. I want to stay in."

Everyone that is in the Army is in because they want to be. We are not warmongers. We are people with families and we want to protect our families and our freedom," said Chatham. "The Army

is full of very giving people.

"I have been in the Army for 15 years. I stay because I enjoy it," said Chatham.

"Everyone has a job, mine is to train and prepare for combat. We all know we can be called at any time to do our job."

"The Army does a lot for the Soldiers and our families. They have taken very good care of this family during this and before," added Chatham. "But there comes a time when you have to give back and that's what we are doing now."

"Soldiers will give and give and give. Some have reached in deep and given so much, they only had one thing left to give. They paid with their lives," said Chatham.

"Losing a foot was not a high price to pay. I still have more to give," he said.



Photo:Skidmore

Staff Sgt. David Chatham, Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, works out at physical therapy after losing his foot during the war in Iraq.

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# Military History Detachment here to train deploying Soldiers

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

The 44th Military History Detachment, Fort McPherson, Ga., was at Fort Riley Jan. 6 - 7 training the 101st MHD in the specifics of their Military Occupation Specialty in preparation for an anticipated deployment by year's end.

The 44th MHD, which is the only active duty MHD in the Army, has been traveling to various posts ensuring the reserve and National Guard units there are capable of performing their mission when called.

"By the end of this year every

MHD is expected to be deployed," said Maj. Doug Hendy, commander, 44th MHD.

"The 44th makes it a point to visit all the mobile stations to ensure that they are acquainted with their mission."

"Our units are activated a lot more frequently in wartime than any other," said Maj. David Johnson, 101st MHD. "That's why it's so important to get the training done now."

A MHD, which generally consists of a major and two senior enlisted Soldiers, is generally concerned with recording what occurs today so future generations will be able to understand it better.

"Our mission is to collect and

preserve historical documents and artifacts, and to conduct interviews," said Hendy. "We collect operations orders and situation reports on ongoing operations, but obviously, were someone to uncover a handwritten letter from Hitler, or any documents that Saddam Hussein might have possessed, that would all be history as well."

"An acronym that we like to use is PAID," said Johnson, "which stands for photographs, artifacts, interviews and documents."

It is the responsibility of the MHDs to ensure information is as complete and accurate as possible, as well as making it easy to

understand.

"Rather than collect information ourselves, we try to make sure that other units are collecting it," said Hendy. "Then, we do our best to fill in the gaps by conducting interviews and asking Soldiers what it's really like from the ground level, and what their experiences are."

"Once we've collected enough information for one unit or in an area, we make up either a monograph or an Operational Data Report, which is a long indexed report or a chronological record of events," Hendy said. "We try to send at least one copy to the Center for Military History in Washington, D.C."

Both enlisted Soldiers in the 44th MHD have been trained in public affairs, an MOS Hendy says is very similar to the MHD's.

"One thing that the MHD's can do that public affairs can't is to collect classified information," said Hendy. "The public affairs office is able to collect public information in order to release it the next day, but it is our job to ask what people will want to know about 60 years from now."

"PAO can make you famous, but a military history detachment can make it permanent," said Johnson.

While the 101st MHD is here, they will train in interviewing various officials and collecting infor-

mation. As Hendy said in the unit's initial brief, MHDs today spend one third of their time simply organizing information.

"The 101st has gotten very good support here from the garrison and installation," said Johnson. "We have been delighted."

Hendy said the most important part of his job was ensuring that Soldiers serving today get the recognition they deserve.

"The major benefit from MHDs that I have seen from personal experience, is that Soldiers who know the unit history and have the pride of knowing those who went before, that is a combat multiplier," said Hendy. "A unit with a history is a better unit."

## Tax Assistance Center conducts classes for preparers, opens Jan. 21

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

The Fort Riley tax office held classes all last week, training military and civilian personnel to serve as tax assistants during the 2004 tax season.

Unit tax advisors will be responsible for preparing their Soldiers prior to their visit to the tax center as well as working several hours a week helping Soldiers at the tax center, according to 2nd Lt. Angela Quinn, officer in charge of the tax center.

According to Quinn, tax advisors will also be present at all redeployment ceremonies to ease the Soldiers' transition back to life here.

Hours for the tax assistance office, following its grand opening Jan. 21, will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The office will be closed Sundays.

The office will also employ two unpaid volunteers, five part-time workers, and nine full-time civilians, according to Quinn.

Capt. Henry DeWoskin, installation tax attorney, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Holmes and a representative from the IRS in Kansas City were the primary instructors for the class.

"Civilians working at the tax

center need to be familiar with all parts of taxes, including pensions, itemized deductions and child care," said Quinn. "The unit advisors need to know the basics, but aren't trained in as many areas as the civilians because they will be working mainly with Soldiers."

"Our purpose is to offer free tax assistance for Soldiers, their family members and retirees," said DeWoskin. "We do taxes for free and e-file them, and it's all at no cost. We want to get you a refund, if we can."

DeWoskin says the tax assistance center performs all the same functions as a civilian financial business, and offers the assurance of having a legal attorney to answer any questions that may come up.

"I recommend you don't wait until the last minute," he said. "I also recommend Fort Riley's tax center, since we're free."

Quinn, also, would like to help as many Soldiers as possible in the tax center this year.

"I think initially it's going to be pretty slow," she said. "It won't really pick up until the units start coming back from overseas in February and March, and then of course there will be the rush to file taxes come April."

DeWoskin urges all Soldiers to visit the tax center and to be smart about their tax preparation this year.

Part of being smart, according to DeWoskin, is getting an early start on your taxes instead of being surprised April 15. Federal law states that all required tax forms must be in the mail by no later than Jan. 31, but DeWoskin advises that individuals begin collecting their forms now.

Perhaps the most important document to have is the W-2 wage earning statement. This year the government will not be mailing W-2s, but will make them available at the My-Pay web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. A W-2 will also be required for any part time jobs that the soldier may have had during the last year.

"W-2s are coming out now, and I highly recommend that Soldiers start collecting them," said DeWoskin.

Other important items to have include a list of the social security numbers of spouses and dependents, 10-99 DIVs for stock market earnings, 10-99 1-Ts for interest earned on bank accounts and any miscellaneous 10-99s that arrive in the mail. The adviser will also require a power of attorney, IRS form 2848, if filing for another individual.

Because legal assistance isn't authorized to become involved in private business the only business deductions able to be applied for are child care expenses, so related forms or receipts should also be

brought to the tax office. The legal office is also capable of taking care of Soldiers who rent property, which can also be applied for as a tax deduction.

"There are also certain tax benefits to being in a combat zone," said DeWoskin. "We expect to be dealing with that a lot more this year than in previous years."

The tax service center opens Jan. 21, in building 7034 on Custer Hill.

Tax assistance is an annual program run by the Army to support Soldiers in the months leading up to April 15, when all the completed tax forms are due to the Internal Revenue Service.

Any further questions may be directed to your unit tax advisor, or call the Tax Assistance Office, after its opening, at 239-1040.



Post/Selmek

Duane Bauer, retired sergeant first class, studies hard to understand the tax law during the class for employees of the Tax Assistance Center given last week.

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# Fort Riley Community

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America's Warfighting Center

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## Joyful celebration



Paul Cooke

The Watoto Children's Choir perform a concert of spiritual and joyous songs for members of the Fort Riley community at Morris Hill Chapel Jan. 9.

## Watoto Children's Choir visits Fort Riley

By Steven Cooke  
19th PAD

The Watoto Children's Choir performed a show of spiritual and joyous songs for the Fort Riley community Jan. 8, at Morris Hill Chapel.

"Our goal in bringing the Watoto Children's Choir to Fort Riley was to promote the message of hope," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Otto Schnarr, command chaplain, Installation Support Troops.

"We have our Soldiers deployed to Iraq and we are all engaged in one way or another in the war on terror. In the midst of all this and our world situation, we need to know we have hope for tomorrow. So we wanted to bring this message to bring this message to Fort Riley through the Watoto children."

The Watoto Children's Choir is comprised of young Ugandan children who are orphaned by the loss of one or both their parents.

According to the Watoto Child Care Ministries press release, the 12 Watoto Children's Choirs have toured internationally since 1994.

They present the Watoto vision and mission through their music and dance that is an energetic fusion of contemporary gospel and traditional African rhythm.

Throughout their performance at Morris Hill Chapel children from the choir would speak about the positive

effect the Watoto organization and God has had on their difficult life.

One child testified passionately, "God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives."

Some of the song selections included in the choir's one hour and a half performance were "God Bless America," "Cast Your Burdens onto Jesus for He Cares for You," "My Jesus Never Fails," and "Heaven is Where You Are."

The choir often called on the audience to participate by singing along, clapping their hands and performing other hand gestures.

Members of the audience said they really enjoyed the performance and were inspired by it.

"I thought it was great," said 13-year-old Renee Bryant. "They danced and sang really well. I thought [they] were really brave and great for coming out saying this is how their lives used to be and this who they are now and showing their love of God. Many young kids don't do that."

"The show was great. It was beautiful," said Pauline Okot-Kotber, a native of Uganda. "They are from my home so it made me feel more at home."

Okot-Kotber said her favorite song of the show was the singing of "God Bless America."

She said even though she already sends money back home to Uganda regularly, the choir's performance opened her eyes.

"I send money home almost every week but after tonight's performance I know there is more work to be done," said Okot-Kotber.

Vera White said she loved the show and found it to be inspirational.

"It brought me a sense of peace," said White. "Despite all of the things going on in the world, there is a peace in these children that allows them to sing so joy-

*"Despite all of the things going on in the world, there is a peace in these children that allows them to sing so joyfully."*

Vera White

fully."

White, who has visited Uganda on vacation, said she always wanted to do something to help the children of Uganda but didn't know how. She said starting with her donation that night she will continue to support the Watoto organization. White said what she likes most

about Watoto is the fact there are actual foster mother's taking care of the children. Midway through the choir's performance, there was a brief video presentation visualizing the negative effect of poverty, corruption, war and disease plaguing Uganda.

Funding for the Watoto Child Care Ministries program comes exclusively from money raised by the children's choir tours.

Timothy Mwogezza, team leader, Watoto Children's Choir, said the choirs perform at approximately 200 shows every six months. They perform regularly in the United States, Canada, England and the Scandinavian countries.

Mwogezza said the children were very excited to be performing at Fort Riley.

"It's amazing that we are here," said Mwogezza.

"Military installations have a lot of history. The children were peeping out of the tour bus windows wanting to see Soldiers, especially in their uniforms."

Mwogezza said the children were also very excited to see other children.

Schnarr said he was very pleased with the support of the Fort Riley community.

"The response of the community was excellent," said Schnarr. "We were able to fill Morris Hill Chapel to capacity." "We took the children to the Morris

Hill Chapel and had a reception and meal prepared for them," said Schnarr.

"Sgt. 1st Class Azelia Sims, unit ministries team noncommissioned officer in charge, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), wanted to make the children feel at home, so she organized the reception and had the dining room decorated in the colors of the flag of the country of Uganda. The children are usually shy, but they responded well to the reception."

According to the Watoto press release, their program is structured so eight children live with a designated foster mother in a small three bedroom house built by volunteers from around the world for \$10,000.

The homes are built in a Watoto Children's Village that consist of the small homes, a primary school, medical clinic, multi-purpose hall and water project.

Watoto Child Care Ministries provide spiritual, physical, educational and emotional care for each child so they can become responsible Christians and productive citizens of Uganda.

Mwogezza said the children do not automatically leave the system at the age of 18 years old. They stay until they are completely able to care for themselves.

For more information on Watoto Child Care Ministries and the Watoto Children's Choir visit their website at [www.watoto.com](http://www.watoto.com).





# 'Iron Rangers' continue rebuilding community, winning residents' trust

**By J. H. French**  
*82nd Airborne Div.*

ABU AL JEER, Iraq - Freedom is a vision, a dream of a better way of life in which the people of Iraq have just begun to scratch the surface and feel the desire to create a reality in which they did not know was possible.

Little by little, one tribe, one community at a time, the "Iron Rangers," Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team are helping to make that dream a reality.

In the town of Abu Al Jeer, the Iron Rangers have worked diligently to ensure a safe and secure environment for the people, said Capt. Jay Tobin who is in charge of Civilian Military Operations for 1st Bn., 16th Inf.

"We want to create a free and democratic Iraq and we're not going to do it with any amount of ordinance. It means dialog, relationships and educating the public," said 1st Lt. Jeff E. Flach with CMO.

"When we first went into the area, there were a lot of people sitting on the fence waiting to go one way or the other. With time,

energy and effort we secured positive relationships in the area and now the community is very pro coalition," said Tobin.

The first task in the town was to rebuild the primary school that was completed in October. The kids of the town mentioned that after finishing primary school that was it, they were done because the town didn't have a secondary school.

"The secondary school hadn't been open in 13 years because it wasn't a priority in the community," Tobin said. "The doors were chained up and windows were busted out. It was really sad to

see."

Nearly \$20,000 was spent to repair the school. All of the work was contracted out to local contractors so the community actually rebuilt the school.

"To facilitate an independent Iraq, education for the next generation is key," Flach said. "Before any of this could be accomplished, a relationship within the community had to be created and that was probably the most difficult part of the operation, he continued.

"We wanted to let them make their own decisions. We met with the local leadership and asked

what they were looking for and we would help," he continued. After the school is finished, a clinic, which is desperately needed, will be next.

The strength of the relationship can be measured by how willing they are to listen to suggestions and the feedback from them, noted Flach.

"They had the desire but didn't know how. They had a vision but didn't think it was possible. All we did was provide a little money. It was their leg work and ingenuity that helped make it happen," Tobin said.

The first goal was to help them

make a better environment for the people. Now it is moving toward helping them with a vision. Upon our arrival in the community there was no vision of governing themselves.

They are starting to taste real freedom. The process has started to mature.

Now the challenge is to get them to take the initiative to follow through with the goal, he continued.

"The best part of this job is to know life is better for the kids," said Tobin. "They have a hope and a dream they didn't have before."

## Soldiers distribute supplies to schools

**By Anthony Reinoso**  
*372nd MPAD*

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The holiday spirit is not a jolly old man in a red suit, colorfully wrapped presents under a plastic Christmas tree or singing carols on a snowy night.

U.S. Soldiers spread the spirit of the holidays in Baghdad by showing compassion and support to the Iraqi children.

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st

Armored Division, brought school supplies and toys to private special education schools in Baghdad during the holiday season.

The 4th Battalion, 1st FA Soldiers coordinated with the Soldiers of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Abilene, Texas, to distribute donations to four schools in Baghdad: the Hiba Down Syndrome School; the Rami Autistic School; the Mansur Institute; and, the Al Rawabi School.

These are private schools and

are not supported by the Ministry of Education in Iraq.

The Soldiers' family members sent school supplies, clothes, crayons, pencils and even toys and stuffed animals requested by the 4th Bn., 1st FA Soldiers specifically to provide supplies for disabled Iraqi children, said Capt. Jeffery Kenewell, civil military officer for the field artillery battalion.

"It's fantastic," said Kenewell. "In one day we received 12 to 15 boxes."

And the project continues

beyond the holiday season, the donations go beyond helping the Iraqi children.

Kenewell said sponsoring the schools not only provides essential learning tools for the children, but also supplies support for the teachers, while alleviating school expenses for the students' parents.

"As a civil affairs unit we focus on helping the Iraqi people," said Capt. Judith Christians, a civil affairs officer for the 490th CAB. "Assisting schools is the most satisfying because it has an almost immediate impact."

## Local schools sensitive to students with deployed parents

**Cassidy Hill**  
*Staff Writer*

As the war in Iraq continues, area elementary schools are educating students on the war and Iraq and are offering support to children who have a parent deployed overseas.

Principal of Custer Hill Elementary School, Ciera Jackson said that some of the teachers have changed the clocks in their rooms to Iraqi time to help the students understand the cultural differences between Kansas and Iraq. She also said the students are comparing maps and are discussing Iraqi climate, clothes, schools, pictures and children.

"The students are real interest-

ed in other kids from Iraq," Jackson said.

Morris Elementary brought in an author to help kids understand deployments. Sarah Jones, an author of *To Keep Me Safe*, shared her book with the students.

Principal Greg Lumb said the book is a story for kids who are affected by military deployments. He also said that students are learning about the war by writing letters and that some have a picture of the deployed parent on their desk or on the wall.

Fort Riley Elementary has student support groups that meet once a week to help students who have questions or concerns about the war and their deployed parent. Principal Becky Lay said students are grouped according to their

grade level and are met with a student support monitor. According to Lay, students are learning about the war through a current events magazine called *Time For Kids*, that is read and discussed in some of the classrooms.

Jefferson Elementary has a bulletin board called, "Wall of Heroes" where students place a picture of their deployed parent.

"Kids put up a picture of their mom or dad who is overseas," said principal Judy Ward.

"As the kids get letters from their deployed parents, they then place the letter underneath their picture on the bulletin."

Ward said the upper grades are participating in a map study and are learning about Iraq.

Ware Elementary students are

being educated about the war and Iraq through writing pen pal letters to units from Fort Riley.

Principal Deb Guffafson said some students are actually writing pen pal letters to their deployed parent. She said some of the fourth and fifth-grade students are learning about Iraq by discussing current events.

Area elementary schools have increased support and attention to students who have parents deployed overseas.

**Every school has its own way of educating students on Iraq, but all the school principals said they are trying to keep things as normal as they can.**



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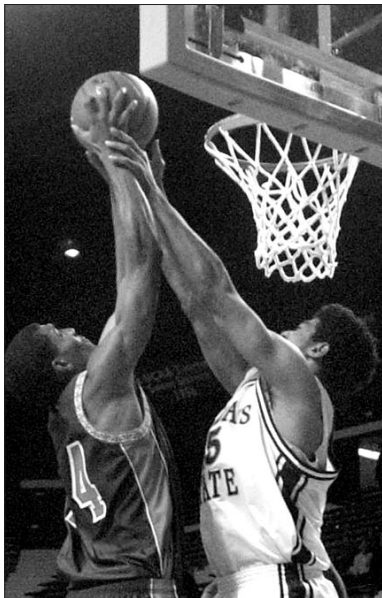
# Fort Riley Sports

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## Wildcats maul Savannah State Tigers 92-51



Post/Robinson

Kansas State forward, Jeremiah Massey tries to block Savannah State forward P.L. Henderson during the second half.

By Sam Robinson  
Staff Writer

After losing two on the road, the Kansas State Men's Basketball team was able to pull off a win at home. Three Cats posted points in the double digits adding to the 92-51 victory over the Savannah State Tigers.

The Tigers started the game with a roar, hitting two three pointers in the first 45 seconds. It took two minutes for Cats to get caught up. That was the last time Savannah would have the lead.

"There are certain things that we try to achieve in every single possession. We are trying to implement a certain style of play, and at times it was frustrating and sloppy, but I thought we shot the ball well and were able to score some points in transition," said Coach Jim Woodriddle. "We knew we had an opportunity to score some easy baskets if we pushed the floor. Our guys were able to get the ball down the court quickly, which gave us the chance to score some easy baskets."

Kansas State senior guard, Tim Ellis, posted 20 points before halftime. Ellis shot 80 percent against the Tigers, including three from three-point range in the first half. Ellis finished the game with a career-high 22 points.

Forwards Jeremiah Massey and Marques Hayden were able to work their way through the Tiger defense and post 10 points each in the first 20 minutes. The Cats were hot in the lane during the first half netting 32 points compared to Savannah's 6 points in the paint.

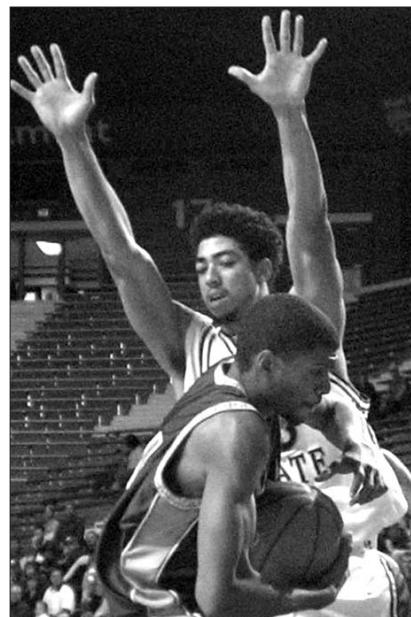
During the second half Kansas State continued on with the routing. Savannah State's frustration was showing. Less than four minutes in to the half a technical foul was called on the Savannah bench.

Massey hit one of the two free throws from the technical. Massey, along with Hayden, went on to hit a double double for the game. Massey and Hayden each had 19 points, 14 and 11 rebounds, respectively.

"Ever since that embarrassing loss to UMKC, coach has been real stern with us. He's been trying to get us adjusted to Big 12 play," said Hayden. "I think tonight, we played with attitude and we were more poised and had more enthusiasm. The way we played tonight we want to carry on."

Happy with this win, the Kansas State team said with Big 12 play about to begin, the Cats feel they still have work to do.

"You can't take a possession off. You have to be productive on every possession," said Hayden. "We're working on our defensive transition because there are guards that can just run right past you. Our main concern is playing together."



Post/Robinson

Wildcat junior Jeremiah Massey defends the lane against a run by a Savannah State player.

## Silent hunters, Northern Harrier native to Fort Riley

By Carla Hurlbert  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

The Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is one of several species of raptors native to Fort Riley. Although there are several harrier species worldwide, only the northern harrier is native to North America. The scientific name comes from the Greek word *kirkos*, meaning a circle and refers to flying in circles, and *cyaneus*, a blue color alluding to the color of the male bird. Harrier is from the old English word *hergian*, and means to harass, ravage, or plunder. In the past, northern harriers have been called marsh hawk or hen harrier.

Northern harriers breed from Alaska through Canada and the northern half of the United States. They migrate for winter ranging from the middle of United

States into Mexico. They live in open country fields, pastures, grasslands, meadows, and marshes. They prefer to nest and roost on the ground in tall grass, or in the cover of a bush.

The northern harrier is a slender hawk with long, slightly rounded barred tail. They have long wings, long yellow legs, and a conspicuous white rump.

They have owl-like facial ruffs and adults have yellow eyes. The sexes differ in plumage. Males are lightest in color with a pale gray mantle and wings.

The undersides of the wings, breast, belly, and under-tail coverts are white with variable amounts of light chestnut spotting on the breast.

Females and juveniles have brown upperparts (except the white rump). Females are larger than males. Their

under-parts are whitish, washed with cinnamon, and streaked with brown longitudinal stripes.

Juveniles are similar but their under-wing coverts, breast, and belly are rusty orange.

The northern harrier does not compete with other hawks but share habitat with short-eared owls if they are present in the area.

In winter the harriers and owls both roost on the ground in groups and in areas where both species occur the roost can be close together, perhaps even shared.

The harriers like to perch on the ground, fence posts, low trees, or rocks.

Northern harriers use their keen eye-

sight and exceptional hearing to locate and capture prey.

This hunting technique is very similar to the owl's way of hunting for prey. A harrier's call is kee-kee-kee or a sharp whistle but they are usually silent.

The harriers hunt for a variety of prey including waterfowl, rabbits, ground squirrels, frogs, and insects, with the primary prey being the meadow vole.

Northern harriers average 40 percent of flight during daylight hours, and can cover 100 miles per day.

They hunt on the wing during the day cruising low over open fields or marshlands with their wings held in a V-like pattern.

They will fly 5 to 30 feet above the vegetation and when they locate their prey the harrier either stalls in flight and

pounces, or hovers like a helicopter for a better look, or to listen.

Males can tend a harem of as many as four females meaning polygynous mating. Males "sky-dances" during courtship with nose-dives, loops, somersaults, and dramatic barrel rolls, often accompanied by shrill screams. Males are very territorial and will vigorously defend their territories against intruders, including humans and other hawks.

After the eggs have been laid they will hatch in about a month. The male helps by feeding the female some distance from the nest. Females feed the hatchlings, which fledge at about 35 days. Young depend on their parents another month or two then leave the home range.

For more information, please contact the Conservation Office at 239-6211 or stop by our office at building 1020, Huebner Road.

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

### Pools open for winter swims, great way to keep in shape

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

It's January. That means it's cold out, and what better way to come in out of the cold and relax than by taking a nice relaxing swim in Fort Riley's heated pools.

Other than being a way to relax, it is a good way to keep the promises people make to themselves and shed the extra weight that comes along with the winter months while giving them a place to go.

"Usually people don't want to swim this time of the year and that's why it's so hard to get them in here. But swimming is a good way to beat winter's cabin fever and gives them a place to go and something to do," said Hedy Bailey, Fort Riley swimming program manager. "Another good reason to swim during the winter is that people have their New Year's resolution to lose extra weight and become active, and swimming is a good training activity to do so."

People who use the pools on winter days will want to bring their common sense with them.

"As far as what we recommend what people bring with them to the pool is pretty much common sense stuff," Bailey said. "They don't want to walk outside after swimming with a wet head or wet clothes. We have showers available, outlets available for hair dryers if needed, or they can use the hand dryers to dry their hair even," she said.

Pools are open for the winter season Wednesday through Friday for lap swimming from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., from 1 - 6 p.m. for open swim. Then, on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. for

See Pools Page 12

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

While stationed at Fort Riley, Soldiers have an opportunity to experience this region of the country's skiing areas through the Information Ticketing and Registration office and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, at little or no cost to themselves.

The ITR office is taking its annual ski trip to Keystone Mountain Resort, Colo., Jan. 30 - 31 as part of the lodges yearly Snofest.

The cost for the trip for single Soldiers is \$120 for lodging and transportation, \$12 for a party ticket (buffet and entertainment),

\$31 for the lift tickets, and if skis are needed, \$14 for ski rental. For married Soldiers, the lodging and transportation fee is slightly higher, with the party ticket is included with the price.

Soldiers interested in going to Keystone can gain the information needed at the ITR office located in building 6918, or through their unit's BOSS representative.

Soldiers don't have to wait until there is a planned trip to go skiing.

The ITR office can put together a ski package for you anytime during the ski season.

If someone wants to go skiing, they can come in here and tell us

the dates they want to go, and we will call around and get the best rates for them for what they want," said Candice Call, travel clerk, ITR.

The downside to going skiing when ITR or BOSS does not host it is that the person will have to provide his or her own transportation to the resort, she said.

Other Colorado resorts the ITR office will contact for the skier are Winter Park Resort, Breckenridge Resort and Copper Mountain.

If skiing or snowboarding is not your venue, there are a host of other activities at the resorts.

Such activities are parties, giveaways, a cardboard derby, sleigh rides, tubing and ice-skating.

out for our national birds at the onset of every winter.

"Each winter we can expect to get between 10 and 40 bald eagles below the tubes in the Tuttle Creek River Pond area, but there are usually over 100 in the area right around the reservoir," said Wurst. "The eagles aren't like swallows. They don't come back on the same day every year, when

they come down really depends on the weather."

If someone has never skied before and wants to learn how, the ITR will put together a package for him or her to visit Snow Creek in Weston, Mo.

Active military can ski free every Wednesday in January and February.

Family members and guests pay only \$10, and will include a rope-tow ticket in the beginners' area of the resort.

Skiers wishing to use the chairlift can purchase a discount lift ticket through ITR.

For more information on the variety of packages ITR has to offer, call 239 - 5614 or 239 - 4415.

### 'Eagle Day' offers viewing at Milford Lake

Aaron Starr  
K-State Student

The return of the bald eagle has begun. One man who anticipates their return, not for pleasure but for business, is K-State graduate Dan Mulhern, a wildlife biologist working with U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Since 1989 when we found the first bald eagle nest near Clinton Reservoir, there has been a steady growth of Kansas' bald eagle nesting population," said Mulhern.

Greg Wurst, a natural resource specialist, and K-State graduate working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Tuttle Creek Project office also keeps an eye

on the same day every year, when

they come down really depends on the weather."

"We have an active nest up in the Shannon Creek arm of the lake that has fledged two eaglets in each of the last two winters," said Steve Prockish a park ranger with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the past 20

See Eagle Page 12





Post Cooke

The Bulldogs and the Top Dogs went head to head in the first game of the season, but it was the Top Dogs that won the game. In the end, the Top Dogs came out on top with a 28 to 23 win.

## Top Dogs top Bulldogs 28-23 during play at Teen Center

By Steven Cooke

19th PAD

The Top Dogs beat the Bulldogs, 28-23, in their first basketball game of the season Jan. 8 at the Teen Center.

"They did pretty well," said Jimmie King, head coach, Top Dogs. "The best thing they did was go in together and play with one another as a team."

Even though his team one/won King said his team had it's rough points.

"In the second half, they had to get back to the fundamentals," said King. "They need to work on keeping their heads up on passes and rebounding."

King had an opinion about the Bull Dogs as well.

"They have two good

guards," said King. "They have good ball handling but they need to work on being patient. Still, they gave us a good run for our money."

Bulldogs head coach, Paul Jones, echoed Kings opinion.

"They had first game jitters," said Jones. "There was not enough looking around and too much of a rush."

Jones said despite his team's loss, he was pleased with their performance.

"They played well together as a team," said King. "They did better than I thought they would for their 1st game."

Jones said when his team loses he gives them simple advice.

"Don't worry about it," said Jones. "Shake it off and Focus on the next game."

By Kevin Doheny

19th PAD

Let's say hypothetically you had been asleep for the last year. You are a huge sports fan and you want to catch up all the action you missed out on over the last 12 months.

You were caught up to speed after reading old magazines and newspapers but you decide you would love to watch some of the games. You realize you just don't have the time to sit and watch every sport and their postseasons. What sport would you watch and why?

Well with the NBA basically controlled by one region of the United States and the NHL not getting the following it probably deserves, that leaves truly only leaves baseball and football.

Since you decided these two sports usually give sport fans the best chance at memorable moments, you look at the tale of the tape.

Well unless you hibernated over the past four months or so, you didn't have worry about missing this sports season and its many incredible playoff

moments. For example, the Red Sox-Yankees and Marlins-Cubs series raised the interest for baseball and this year's NFL Playoffs has been the best in recent memory.

So if you had to decide for yourself, what would it be, Yankee Stadium in October or Lambeau Field in January?

For supporters of baseball and football, I'm sure each would have plenty of arguments of why each would be a wise decision.

Since the decline of baseball with the strike years, the NFL has taken measures that set it apart from the rest of the professional sports.

The NFL has been a league of parity and this has caused most teams in the league to be competitive, thus fans in most cities stay interested in their teams more often. Someone could have made a case to say that all of this year's 12 playoff teams had a legitimate shot at making it far into the playoffs. Maybe only a few teams had a 'real' chance at the Superbowl, but all had the legitimate shot at making it far.

I know Yankee and Fenway

Parks have their magical appeals to them, but there is just something about watching Brett Farve do his thing at Lambeau or watching old clips of John Elway poetically moving his team down the field to win a game late in the fourth quarter.

Even in this year's playoffs, which has been the best in many years, the games have added to the magic. Look at this past weekend's games. All were decided by seven points or less, and the Carolina-St. Louis game went into the second overtime.

Even though the underdog Florida Marlins pulled off the upset against the Yankees this season in baseball, the favorites in baseball usually triumph.

For football, it has been a different story. Look at Superbowl XXXVI where the New England Patriots played the 'Greatest Show on Carpel' and the St. Louis Rams and played them like no one had that at that point. That upset was probably the game of the year in professional sports. What about one of the worst professional sports franchisees ever, Tampa Bay Buccaneers winning last

year's championship.

Look at this weekend's games, where most people probably didn't think two of the four teams would get this far.

Carolina and their 'no name' offense out played the high-flying Rams, and picked their way through the NFL's best defense a few weeks ago and now have a legit chance to beat an average Philadelphia Eagles team that is thanking the big man upstairs that Brett Farve through his worst pass in overtime Sunday, leading to the David Akers' game winning field goal.

What about the Colts who have all the sudden rightened their ship after a late stumble into the playoffs. Peyton Manning has look like another Colt legend, Johnny Unitas, in his two games. He has an almost perfect passer rating and the New England Patriots have a legitimate contender for the AFC Championship.

Basically it all comes down to the fact that fans get more out of football these days than baseball. When all playoff teams have a legitimate shot at winning it all, it just makes for 'better television.'

## Commentary

### Football v Baseball: What playoffs are better?



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## Pools

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open swim, said Bailey.

Right now Eyster Pool is closed, and will be reopened Wednesday.

"Once this pool is open Jan. 21, we will transfer our staff from the pool at Long Fitness Center to here. We had them there so we would have a facility open while this one was closed," Bailey said.

Bailey said the facility would be open in time for a lifeguard training class scheduled Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, for military identification card holders.

"We are having our first lifeguard training class of the year, which is for family members of the military only. They need to be at least 15 years of age to attend the class," she said.

The class has limited seating and is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"I can only take 10 people for the class, so it will be for the first 10 that sign up for it and can pass the pre-course test/class. If family members would like to know more about the pre-course test/class they can give me a call and I will explain it to them," said Bailey. "There will be a sign up sheet here at Eyster Pool and they can walk-in or call me to be put on the list."

This is a great opportunity for people to get certified considering the price for the class when offered elsewhere, and can payoff for the graduates this summer.

"We are offering this class free to the family members - we're talking about a \$150 - \$200 class. We are doing this in a hope that these people want jobs, and I will be looking for potential staff for Fort Riley's aquatics this summer," Bailey stated.

Also, sign up for swimming lessons will be Feb. 9, and the classes will start Feb. 23 and run till March 5.

The pools are only open for military identification card holders, but if they want to bring a civilian in here they would have to sign their guest (up to two people per card holder) in and stay here with them until they leave, said Bailey.

For more information, call 239 - 9441.

## Eagles

continued from page 9

years.

These birds are slowly but surely making a comeback according to Mulhern.

They were placed on the endangered species list from its creation in 1973 when the total number was believed to have been below 2,000 bald eagles nationwide," he said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims that at the time the bald eagle was adopted as our national symbol in 1782, there were approximately 75,000 living in the contiguous states.

"Bald eagles faced their most difficult time following World War II due to widespread use of DDT as a pesticide," said Prockish.

"There were several things that lead to the decline of the eagle population including the destruction of their habitat and reproduction failure due to poisoning from DDT through what is known as bio-accumulation. Bio-accumulation is when a small animal that is low on the food chain ate something with the DDT poison on it, but before the small animal died it was eaten by an eagle. The more sick animals an eagle eats, the more poison builds up in its system until, in this case, the shells of the eggs were not produced as thick as they should be," said Mulhern.

"The eagles weren't dying from the poison. They were just unable to reproduce," he said.

"The Corps of Engineers keeps a close eye on the private activities in and around the park to make sure that the eagles aren't harmed or put into any sort of unnecessary danger." Wurst continued, "We have to close our camp-

grounds during the winter months to keep people out of the area where the eagles typically go to hunt. There can be pressure from hunters on the federally owned land around the lake that can start to get too close to where the eagles both nest and roost," he said.

"Last year, we had to post signs around the Shannon Creek nesting site because hunters were getting too close, but the year before that we had no problems with it," said Prockish.

"Currently, the greatest threat to the well being of the bald eagles, in our area at least, seems to be power lines. Many of the newer power lines are built with a large enough gap that an eagle with a 6 1/2 foot to an 8 foot wingspan will not accidentally electrocute itself when trying to perch on the cable, but there are still a lot of old lines around," said Mulhern.

Since the first nest was spotted in 1989, the numbers have steadily grown in the area and as of summer 2003 there were 18 active nests in Kansas, said Mulhern.

"Eagles mate for life and typically build their nests within 100 miles of where the male was hatched, said Mulhern. "Most of the eaglets fledged in the last two years were male. This indicates that in the next four to five years when they reach maturity and find mates, the number of eagle nests in the area will multiply."

According to Craig Chamberlin, civil engineer technician at the Milford Lake, an "Eagle Day" will be held at Milford Lake on Jan. 17

and 18. The trip should allow visitors to see eagles in their native habitat. Those who plan to attend are advised to dress properly and bring their cameras and binoculars.

For more information on this event, call 238-5714.



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